

I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 291.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALZ. I would also like to thank my colleagues who were involved in pushing this bill forward, with a special thank you to our colleague from Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, for his unwavering support of our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 291.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NATIONAL VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT WEEK

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 866) expressing support for designation of a National Veterans History Project Week to encourage public participation in a nationwide project that collects and preserves the stories of the men and women who served our nation in times of war and conflict.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 866

Whereas the Veterans History Project was established by a unanimous vote of the United States Congress to collect and preserve the wartime stories of American veterans;

Whereas Congress charged the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to undertake the Veterans History Project and to engage the public in the creation of a collection of oral histories that would be a lasting tribute to individual veterans and an abundant resource for scholars;

Whereas there are 17,000,000 wartime veterans in America whose stories can educate people of all ages about important moments and events in the history of the United States and the world and provide instructive narratives that illuminate the meanings of "service", "sacrifice", "citizenship", and "democracy";

Whereas the Veterans History Project relies on a corps of volunteer interviewers, partner organizations, and an array of civic

minded institutions nationwide who interview veterans according to the guidelines it provides;

Whereas increasing public participation in the Veterans History Project will increase the number of oral histories that can be collected and preserved and increase the number of veterans it so honors; and

Whereas "National Veterans Awareness Week" commendably preceded this resolution in the years 2005 and 2006: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes "National Veterans Awareness Week";

(2) supports the designation of a "National Veterans History Project Week";

(3) calls on the people of the United States to interview at least one veteran in their families or communities according to guidelines provided by the Veterans History Project; and

(4) encourages local, State, and national organizations along with Federal, State, city and county governmental institutions to participate in support of the effort to document, preserve, and honor the service of American wartime veterans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Abraham Lincoln, in the Gettysburg Address, stated that the "world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." In that spirit, Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000. The goal of the project is to capture the personal stories of our Nation's heroes so that our children and their children can more fully understand the history of this great Nation.

The project directed the Library of Congress to establish a national archive for the collection and preservation of videotaped oral histories of our veterans, as well as the copying of letters written during their time in service and diaries they kept so there is a national repository of this very important part of our Nation's history. This is a worthwhile investment of time and resources and is a gift that can be given for generations and centuries to come.

There are more than 23 million veterans living in this country today, including the 3 million veterans of World War II. It is important that these stories are told, and it is more important that these stories are told from the mouths of those who were on the front lines and participated firsthand as history was made.

This resolution before us today, House Resolution 866, calls on the people of the United States to interview at least one veteran in their family or community according to guidelines provided by the Veterans History Project.

I would like to thank all the volunteers from across this country, not

only the veterans who have shared their stories, but their family members and friends that have helped to capture their accounts.

Volunteers and participants become historians themselves; they can collect video and audio recordings, create a collection of recordings to be available for public use, or collect written materials relevant to personal histories of all war veterans.

I encourage all Americans to reach out and thank the veterans they know, and their families, for their amazing sacrifice, learn more about their great contributions to our country, gain the wisdom of their personal stories of our Nation's history, and participate in the Veterans History Project.

As the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee has said, he has had the opportunity to hear many accounts from many veterans. He hears the sense of pride that comes with them, as do each of us who defended our country.

This Veterans Day, and the whole year through, join me and take the time to show your gratitude to those who have answered the call to duty.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman, Chairman FILNER, Ranking Member BUYER, and all members of the committee, and a special thank you to Representative RON KIND who introduced this to me.

As a schoolteacher and someone who understands the value of these oral histories, this is an incredible archive. The support of this project cannot be overstated. It is going to be something that will allow generations to come to understand what this country was built upon, and they will have it as a resource to access at any time.

So, again, I thank everyone involved in this project.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 866, a resolution expressing support for the designation of a National Veterans History Project Week to encourage public participation in a nationwide project that collects and preserves the stories of the men and women who served our Nation at times of war and conflict.

The National Veterans History Project was created by P.L. 106-380, which was signed into law by President Clinton on October 27, 2000. It is housed in the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress and contains firsthand accounts of veterans from every armed service conflict since World War I. The online database contains records of over 70,000 veterans and will continue to be a wonderful resource to inform and inspire all Americans for generations to come.

In reviewing this collection of information on veterans, you can find the stories in the collection of our only remaining American veteran of World War I, Frank Buckles. His digital collection contains both video and audio

records of his time serving as a corporal in World War I. We also have stories from the most current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan in the collection.

To have this personal record is so important to the history and nature of our country as it provides our Nation with the unique perspective of what it's like serving on the ground, a point of view often lost in the history books. Mr. Speaker, it is by preserving these stories and records that the past is shared with the future and lessons can be learned.

I highly encourage all veterans to participate in the Veterans History Project and support this resolution for the designation of National Veterans History Project Week to encourage public participation in this nationwide collection of stories.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, Mr. KIND of Wisconsin and Mr. WAMP of Tennessee, for introducing this bipartisan legislation, and Chairman FILNER and Ranking Member BUYER for moving the bill so quickly to the floor for consideration.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 866.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 866.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALZ. Again, I, too, want to thank Mr. WAMP, Mr. KIND, and everyone involved in this; it is absolutely appropriate as next week we stop to remember Veterans Day. This project does so all year and for generations to come. I urge unanimous support of this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in support of H. Res. 866, which expresses support for designation of a National Veterans History Project Week to encourage public participation in a nationwide project that collects and preserves the stories of the men and women who served our nation in times of war and conflict. I support this resolution because the preservation of our country's history, as told by the men and women of the armed services, is a valuable piece of our nation's heritage and merits our wholehearted endorsement.

The Veterans History Project was established in 2000 by the Veteran's Oral History Project Act, which I was proud to support as a cosponsor. We knew then, as we know now, that the experience of our nation's veterans is a vital part of the history of military conflicts. The Congress unanimously supported the legislation, a testament to the necessity of this effort.

The American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress was charged by Congress to initiate and oversee the Veterans History Project. Its task is to engage the public to create a collection of oral histories, which would be available for scholars. The Veterans History Project

is operated by volunteer interviewers, partner organizations, and an array of institutions' dedicated to the preservation of the United States' heritage. Interviews with American war veterans and the civilian workers who supported the veterans are conducted according to the guidelines provided by the Project. The Veterans History Project collects the memories and remembrances of veterans who served in World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. So far, the Veterans History Project has collected over 66,000 oral histories, pictures, and diary entries from American men and women who served their country on the battlefield and at home. The stories are made available at the Library of Congress and on the Veterans History Project website for everyone to study and experience.

I would like to acknowledge that there are two official partner organizations assisting this project in my home state of Texas. The first is the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) located in Irving, Texas. The second is the LULAC-Daughters and Mothers Assisting Success Program located in Dallas, Texas. I am proud of the generosity of these organizations that are willing to donate their time to honor veterans and preserve veterans' history.

Veterans History Project Week highlights the need to collect and preserve the personal narratives of the men and women who have served the United States in times of war and conflict. The collection of personal experiences of U.S. service men and women will be a vital part of the historical record that will help future scholars understand the conflicts. There are over 23 million wartime veterans in America whose personal narratives can elucidate both the experience of armed conflict throughout time and the proceedings of the conflicts themselves.

This resolution is a timely reminder of the importance of acting quickly to preserve the experience of U.S. veterans. Approximately 40 percent of veterans are 65 years old or over. Of the 2.6 million World War II veterans who were alive in 2008, we are losing nearly 900 on average each day. We must not let time irreversibly claim the memories that are our nation's heritage.

The Veterans History Project also serves as a tribute to the men and women who have fought our country's battles or supported the effort at home. Collecting and preserving the personal narratives of veterans for historical records demonstrates the importance of the individual experiences. The voices of veterans will be available to be heard by future students of history and their experience will remain alive.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution and the effort to preserve the memory of those who have served our country in times of war and conflict are an invaluable part of preserving our country's heritage.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 866, expressing support for designation of a National Veterans History Project Week to encourage public participation in a nationwide project that collects and preserves the stories of the men and women who served our nation in times of war and conflict. I joined with my colleague, Mr. KIND, to introduce this legislation.

Our Nation loses at least 1,000 veterans every day, and along with them we lose their

stories of courage and memories of comradeship and sacrifice. In October 2000, Congress recognized the urgency of collecting these wartime memories, accounts and documents and created the Veterans History Project.

Today we honor all the lives of veterans and the project by supporting the designation of National Veterans History Project Week. We encourage Americans to join in the effort to preserve and honor the service of our wartime veterans by interviewing those in their families and communities to contribute to the Veteran's History Project. It is a unique opportunity to help document the personal accounts of our Nation's veterans for today's generation and future Americans.

More than 600 stories of veterans in the Tennessee Valley have been permanently archived at the Library of Congress as part of the Veterans History project. More than 100 of these local veterans' memories were aired on Chattanooga's WRCB-TV. Through WRCB's television coverage, many veterans were inspired to share their stories and more were collected than we could have ever expected. Some of these memories include those of fresh-faced high school graduates who stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-day, officers who fought through the Battle of the Bulge and left Europe as decorated heroes, and young women who voluntarily served in the Army Corps of Nurses helping our soldiers heal from their battle wounds. Theirs are the stories we may not have heard if not for the Veterans History Project.

Our Nation's history of freedom is passed down from one generation to the next by American patriots who were willing to stand between a threat and our civilian population. It is essential that we work together to preserve their memories and experiences for future generations who have much to learn from those who have so honorably served our Nation.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 866.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING SENTINELS OF FREEDOM

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 461) honoring Sentinels of Freedom and commending the dedication, commitment, and extraordinary work of the organization.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows: